

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



### McKinney Primary School and Nursery Unit, Dundrod, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (401-0512)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action  
Short of Strike) in March 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of McKinney Primary School and Nursery Unit, Dundrod, County Antrim (401-0512)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of McKinney Primary School as good (from September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement). A follow-up inspection of the nursery unit in March 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of McKinney Nursery Unit as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 29 March 2019.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education under Article 102 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Therefore, the inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

## **Focus of the inspection**

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

## **Key findings**

- The group of year 6 children report that they have good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles as 'House-Team Leaders', 'playground buddies' and through membership of, for example, the school Eco-committee.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

## **Safeguarding**

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

The school needs to ensure that:

- all new governors receive child protection and safeguarding training; and
- the policies currently in draft form are finalised and ratified by the board of governors.

## **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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